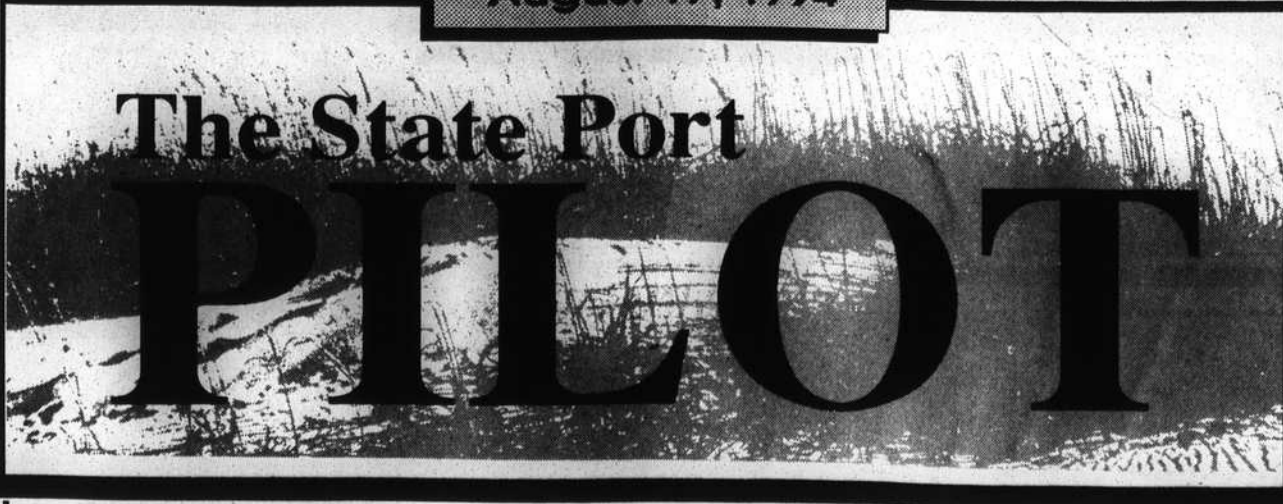




**Sports**

Now everybody has a new head football coach for the fall -- 4B



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**Our Town**

Students are to return next Tuesday, but will all schools be ready? -- page 2

**Neighbors**

Have a closer look at the brand new Odell Williamson Auditorium -- 1B

# Electric rates: Who you pay and how much

## CP&L has lowest rates in area

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Where you live in the Southport-Oak Island area determines who delivers your electricity and how much you pay for it.

A survey of the rates charged by the three area electric providers -- the City of Southport, Brunswick

Electric Membership Corporation and Carolina Power and Light Company -- shows CP&L customers enjoy the lowest electric rates in the Pilot coverage area.

Customers in Boiling Spring Lakes, Bald Head Island and Leland are provided electricity directly from Carolina Power and Light Company, one of two major power generators in the state.

Residents of Southport and those in areas immediately surrounding it purchase their electricity from the city, which purchases from a consortium of North Carolina municipal power providers.

Oak Island residents and others residing in unincorporated areas of Smithville Township and Winnabow are provided electricity by Brunswick Electric Mem-

bership Corporation, a rural electric cooperative.

Generally, electricity purchased from the Southport and Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation costs 11-24 percent more than electricity purchased directly from CP&L, depending on consumption and the time of year.

And location of the CP&L Brunswick Nuclear Plant has nothing to do with the costs paid by area residents. Rates for electric utilities are set by the N.C. Utilities Commission and are static throughout the state.

If anything, the rates charged by the three electric providers in the eastern part of the county reflect the different nature of the three providers, their origins and

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	500 KWH	1000 KWH	1500 KWH
<b>SOUTHPORT</b>	\$54.29	\$101.67	\$151.88
<b>BEMC</b> <small>(Includes August 1994 Power Cost Adjustment)</small>	\$58.85	\$103.39	\$147.92
<b>CP&amp;L Nov.-June</b>	\$44.55	\$82.13	\$119.73
<b>July-Oct.</b>	\$49.70	\$92.43	\$135.18

## Schools begin on time as originally planned

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Brunswick County students will not have an extra few weeks to sleep late and go the beach after all.

Classes will begin on Tuesday, August 23 as originally planned. Teachers returned this week to prepare their classrooms and participate in training workshops.

The board of education decided not to change the school calendar last week after acting county manager Charles McGinnis said in a prepared statement that the schools would receive a monthly allotment based on the \$8.7 million the county provided to the schools last year.

School officials feared that county funding would dry up pending a decision on August 29 by a Superior Court judge on whether to uphold or overturn a July 28 jury decision to award the school system \$14 million in local funding this year.

County officials appealed the decision and are asking that the award be overturned or reduced.

McGinnis said that the county would continue to provide the school system about \$725,000 per month until the judge's ruling.

Superintendent of schools Ralph Johnston noted that the operating expenses of the

See Schools, page 6

## Southport reviews annexation concept

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

The City of Southport has not formally considered expanding its boundaries by taking in areas along its periphery since 1989, but annexation was placed squarely back on the city agenda Thursday night.

*"I think it's something that any board anywhere has an obligation to look at from time to time."*

**-Rob Gandy  
City Manager**

In the final moments of the regular monthly meeting of the board of aldermen, during a portion of a meeting devoted to member's reports and requests, alderman Paul Fisher stepped forward with the request to revive annexation efforts.

Specifically, Fisher asked the board to di-

rect city manager Rob Gandy to contact the Division of Community Resources of the state's Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, to secure the services of a planner "to determine if certain areas are feasible for annexation."

"I think it's something that any board anywhere has an obligation to look at from time to time," Gandy said Tuesday. "It's part of the planning process. They're obligated to do it periodically."

The annexation issue re-emerges in a year in which the City of Southport finds itself financially strapped -- particularly for general fund revenues.

Annexation -- taking additional land into the city -- means more property placed on the city's tax rolls.

Under the terms of annexation law in North Carolina, the city's first move in initiating any annexation attempt is to adopt a resolution of intent to annex certain areas. The areas under consideration for annexation must be delineated in the resolution.

Public hearings must be held before the resolution of intent is adopted.

After adoption, the city will compile an

See Reviews, page 11



Photo by Jim Harper

Capstone of the county's accomplishments is what Governor Jim Hunt called the Odell Williamson Auditorium last week as Virginia and Odell Williamson joined hundred of Brunswick County residents in the celebration at Brunswick Community College.

### Williamson auditorium

## Hunt applauds 'vision' for Brunswick's future

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Brunswick County is "on the verge of springing off to a very, very bright future," and Brunswick Community College's Odell Williamson Auditorium is the "capstone" to all of the county's achievements thus far, Gov. Jim Hunt told a large crowd gathered at the auditorium last Wednesday for a dedication ceremony.

The ceremony officially handed over ownership of the \$3.3-million auditorium to the citizens of Brunswick County.

"This should not only be a dedication of a building, but a rededication of the people to move Brunswick County forward and show North Carolina all that it can be, all that it should be and

See Auditorium, page 6

## Beach sets new bulkhead policy

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A newly defined policy on where and when the town will pay for street-end bulkheads and a return to old-style street lights emerged from debate as Long Beach town council met in a 38-minute regular monthly session Tuesday night.

Under the terms of a motion offered by councilman Horace Collier, residents' requests for street-end bulkheads will take a back seat to a priority list of bulkhead projects to be formulated by the town's erosion control committee in consultation with town staff. This "clarification" of policy came at the committee's request and was relayed by town manager Jerry Walters.

"I strongly feel it shouldn't be based on one person's request," Collier said.

Walters said the committee was unsure of council's intent. There are currently three resident-initiated requests for bulkheads before the erosion control committee. Requests have been made for bulkheads at 2nd Street NW, 3rd Street NE and 20th Street NE.

Long Beach has footed the bill for a number of bulkheads at street ends along the Intracoastal Waterway. With Collier's motion, council also jettisoned the requirement that owners of property abutting street ends bulkhead their properties before the town will bulkhead a publicly owned street end.

Rejected was a motion by councilman Kevin Bell to proceed with the three projects requested by residents. Councilman Bill Easley led opposition to this, saying the 20th Street end was stable and money would be better spent in more damage prone areas.

Public works director Charles Derrick told council the average cost of bulkheading is \$65 per linear foot, depending on the price of lumber at the time of the project.

The erosion control committee, pursuant to Collier's motion, is to consider the general benefit of the project to all residents, safety aspects of the project and the extent to which the project protects previous investments by the town.

The policy will likely undergo some fine tuning as council begins its budget deliberation process next year. Mayor Joan Altman said the erosion control committee should be prepared to bring a full year's list of bulkhead projects for appropriation next June.

"I think this could be avoided if we had a list at budget time," Altman said.

By debate's end, councilmen just weren't

See Bulkhead, page 12



STANLEY

### Stanley: Health care is a local issue

## Chances for reform not so healthy

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

As a local businessman, former educator and an active member of the Brunswick County Board of Health, it puzzles Maliston (Moe) Stanley why the average person is left in the dark over health care reform.

But he knows if the debate fizzles in Washington, D.C., or in Raleigh, he and his neighbors back home will continue to watch health care costs skyrocket. And they'll wonder if the ones who make the decisions are led by the concerns of the average person or by desires of big business.

"Even if it should die up there," said Stanley, "why does it have to die in

Brunswick County?"

Stanley serves on two committees picked by the N.C. Health Planning Commission -- on a panel that wants to form community health districts and on a consensus planning board that will try to piece together the best ideas from 13 such state committees.

The commission was created by the 1993 N.C. General Assembly to develop a health care reform package to present to legislators, one to provide all residents access to quality health care through a plan that is both comprehensible and affordable.

At the same time, federal lawmakers are trying to hammer-out solutions at the

See Reform, page 11